

- ☐ Owner
- ☐ Accountant/Bkkr.
- ☐ Business Associate
- ☐ HRM Manager
- ☐ Office Manager
- ☐ Other _____

How do extended benefit payments affect my “experience rating” and “benefit charges”?

UPDATE: Congress has just passed legislation authorizing up to 13 weeks of federal unemployment benefits to certain workers. The President is expected to sign the legislation. These benefits will be paid before state EB for most claimants, which will result in savings to the state UI Trust Fund. More information will be available in the near future.

Because of Washington's high unemployment rate, the department began making extended benefit payments beginning the week of January 6, 2002. Extended benefits (EB) trigger “on” when the state unemployment rate reaches a certain level specified by state law.

Most claimants eligible for EB will receive nine weeks of extended benefits. Claimants who receive less than 30 weeks of regular benefits can receive up to 13 weeks of EB for a total of 39 weeks of unemployment.

Job search requirements for claimants on extended benefits are more stringent than when they are collecting regular benefits. Federal law mandates that claimants make at least four job search contacts per week seeking “suitable work” and that they provide this information to the department when filing their weekly claim for extended benefits.

Employers may experience some inconvenience from an increase in work search contacts by claimants and from follow-up contacts by the department, but we must be sure that claimants are making a serious effort to find work.

Costs of extended benefits are shared equally by Washington state and the federal government.

Employers whose experience rating account may be charged for EB will receive a “Notice to Base Year Employer” (EMS 166) notifying them of the

percentage and dollar amount of the potential charges.

Extended benefits are charged 100% to reimbursable employers except for nonprofit employers who have federal exemption under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. They are only billed for 50% of the amount of extended benefits paid to their former employees. The other 50% is paid for from a pooled account funded by the federal government. (Reimbursable employers pay no unemployment tax, but instead, reimburse the department for every dollar paid out in unemployment benefits to their former employees.)

For details on claimant eligibility requirements for extended benefits, visit our website at <http://www.wa.gov/esd/ui/ebinfo.htm>.

Important Tax Updates

• Wage Continuation Sheets in the Mail

Businesses with more than 15 employees will be receiving additional wage continuation sheets in the mail soon. Information about electronic reporting will be included with the mailing. Any business with more than 15 employees should be filing electronically. There are two free electronic filing options available to meet your needs. Both options facilitate importing of wage data so re-keying is no longer necessary.

1. **UI FasTax** UI FasTax is software that is installed on your PC (downloaded from the Internet or sent on a CD). Because it is loaded on your PC, you can build reports from quarter to quarter. UI FasTax works well for employers and business agents, accounting firms, etc. reporting for more than one business and employers who wish to keep their data for later reference. Go to www.wa.gov/esd/tax and click your UI FasTax link to download your free software today.

2. **UI WebTax** UI WebTax is an interactive web version of UI FasTax that allows you to file on line. You may print a copy of the report for your records but because UI WebTax is not installed on your PC you may not revisit the report once it is sent. UI WebTax works well for employers that prefer not to install software on their PC. Go to www.wa.gov/esd/tax and web file today.

• No Paper Forms Mailed to Electronic Filers

Businesses that have filed electronically and on time for two consecutive quarters will not receive paper forms - creating savings in both forms production and postage. The Business Update is available on line at www.wa.gov/esd/employerservices.htm to all businesses.

• Use Black Ink Please

Just a reminder to use black ink if filling out forms by hand. Do not use pencil, blue or other colored pens, or gel pens please. In fact, why not file using UI FasTax or UI WebTax and never have to fill out a form by hand again!

• Credit Statements

Tax Credit Statements will be mailed in mid April 2002. If you have previously submitted a request for a refund based on a credit statement received in January and have not received a response, please **do not** resubmit your request. The delay in refunds is due to the large volume of requests received. Refunds are being processed as quickly as possible. If you receive a statement for the first time, please use the credit on your quarterly tax report.

Once a request for refund is received, the account is audited to insure accuracy of the credit.

Report a Fraud Today

Know of a dishonest contractor, employer, worker, health care provider, attorney?

Report-a-fraud hotline:
1-888-811-5974

Report-a-fraud-website:
<http://www.lni.wa.gov/fraud/>

The Department of Labor and Industries, in coordination with the Department of Revenue and the Employment Security Department, want to reduce fraud. You can remain anonymous.

go2worksource.com

Finding the Right Worker
Just Got

Easier!

List Jobs for free

go2worksource.com lets you reach thousands of Washington job seekers daily without spending a dime. Simply go to the site, post your job listings and watch the resumes roll in.

Filing for Unemployment Benefits Online a Success

Laid off workers can apply for unemployment benefits on the Internet, 24 hours a day, seven days a week at go2ui.com.

Since July 2001, the department has taken more than 89,000 online applications for UI Benefits. Currently, about 30 percent of all new claims are filed over the Internet. In addition, we also provide a way for UI claimants to file their weekly claim certifications over the Internet which is available between 12:01 a.m. Sunday and 5 p.m. Friday. Usage has increased gradually to 17 percent.

Unions and businesses can do workers a big favor by giving them access to the Internet to apply for unemployment at go2ui.com. The Internet is now the most convenient way to get that unemployment application into our system.

LOCAL Happenings

Tacoma District Tax Office Moved

The Tacoma District Tax Office relocated adjacent to WorkSource Pierce on March 4. The telephone number (253) 593-7380 and fax number (253) 593-7399 will remain the same. The address remains the same at 1305 Tacoma Avenue South, but the suite number changed to #202.

WorkSource Olympia to Host Job/Apprenticeship Fair

The WorkSource Olympia Affiliate will be hosting a Career Connections job/apprenticeship fair Friday, March 22, at the Westfield Shoppingtown Capital (formerly Capital Mall at 600 Black Lake Boulevard from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. It is anticipated that there will be a minimum of 50 employers on site to take resumes and applications. The public is invited. For more information contact DyAnn Davis at (360) 407-5073 or Jeannie House at (360) 427-2152.

Pathways to Your Future

Career and Job Information Fair 2002 will take place Thursday, April 11, 2002 at the Westfield ShoppingTown (formerly Vancouver Mall) in Vancouver, Washington. It is the largest job fair in SW Washington where job seekers can meet face-to-face with potential employers, attend free job search seminars, have their resume critiqued, and practice their interviewing skills. The career and information fair is sponsored by WorkSource, Clark College and Washington State University in Vancouver. For more information, call (360) 992-2155 or (360) 735-5020. Employers can register online at www.clark.edu.

Skagit Valley College Career Expo 2002

Job seekers and career explorers are invited to the Career Expo 2002, Tuesday, April 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Skagit Valley College, Mount Vernon campus. Under the theme "Explore the Possibilities," attendees will have an opportunity to meet representatives from local and regional organizations and learn new career development skills.

Businesses are invited to participate and registration information can be obtained by calling Skagit Valley College Career Services, (360) 416-7743. This is a great opportunity to meet hundreds of motivated and highly qualified prospective employees and interns, as well as, expand employers business network by meeting other professionals.

Edmonds Community College Career Fair: *Get Ready! Get Hired!*

A Career Fair is scheduled April 25 for current or former students of the Edmonds Community College. The Career Fair, *Get Ready! Get Hired!*, is hosted by the college and will be in the Triton Union Building, 2nd floor, 20000 68th Avenue West in Lynnwood from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. There will be two career preparation days where speakers and resume critiquing is done in advance for the students. Contact Caprice Arnett (carnett@edcc.edu) at (425) 640-1331 for additional information.

Small Business Workshops

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is offering Small Business Workshops statewide. The topics range from *Starting A Business Got You All Shook Up?* to *Working for Love Instead of Money?* to *Employment Tax Workshop*. Presenters include representatives from federal, state, and local government as well as private companies. The workshops can be located on the Internet website for the IRS at <http://www.irs.gov/smallbiz/localevents/washington.htm>.

Save Your Business Money With Shared Work!

Are you anticipating or experiencing an unexpected slowdown in your business?

For more information, call
1-800-752-2500

Not available during seasonal slowdowns or for part-time employees.

It's On The Net

Employment Security: The Right Connection

**Visit Employment Security's
Homepage at: www.wa.gov/esd**

The News You Need To Know About
Employment Security.

- Take a look at our special programs for business.
- Get important tax information.
- Improve your general knowledge about ES.
- Find out what's going on -- look at our current publications.
- All that is at hand merely by visiting Employment Security's Home Page.

The Washington

Employer Help Line

What's in it for me?

- File 'no payroll' quarterly tax reports.
- Obtain key data about your UI tax account.
- Have selected forms and/or publications faxed to you.
- Get help with your recruiting or place orders to fill anticipated job openings.
- Access these and other services 24 hours a day, any day. Just dial:

(206) 340-1400 - Seattle

(509) 892-9211 - Spokane

(253) 305-0038 - Tacoma

1-888-836-1900 - Toll Free